

# SAN MARCOS FREE PRESS.

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SAN MARCOS, - - TEXAS

## TEXAS TOPICS.

—Mrs. Garrison, of Clear Creek, Montague county, says he has raised this year, with the help of three boys only, 1,000 bushels of corn and 33 bales of cotton.

—The Shelby county *Champion* speaks of a vein of coal which was struck and dug into several feet without finding the bottom, while a well was being dug on Judge Wheeler's place, in that county. The quality of the coal was tested by blacksmiths and pronounced good.

—The census returns for 1881 credit Texas with a total agricultural area of settlement of 125,000 square miles; 48,200 of these have 2 to 7, 48,500 have 5 to 8, and 28,500 have from 18 to 45 inhabitants to the square mile. The report declares that agriculture in the United States is not carried to such a point as to afford employment and support to population in excess of 45 to the square mile.

—Colonel Glenn, superintending architect of the United States Court-house and Postoffice building, nearing completion at Austin, gives the Adams Texas cement a trial in the pavement in front of the building, and pronounces it, after that and other tests, to be equal to the best imported Rockdale cement. The pavement, owing to faulty construction, has been broken by Colonel Glenn in several places, leaving the impression that it has been a failure. The same kind of cement is required in the specifications for the new capitol.

—Montague *Northwest*: Dr. Wolverton, who has been riding extensively in the southern part of the county during the past week, says the wheat fields are looking splendidly. The farmers think they have not been injured by the worms, as the wheat has all come again and the fields are now being used as pastures. The doctor says there is more wheat this year than he has ever seen before, noticeably on the uplands, which have not heretofore been planted in wheat to any extent.

—Bandera *Bugle*: The growth of the sheep industry in Texas within the last few years has been marvelous. Yet, when we consider the advantages offered by our climate and contrast them with conditions under which this business is conducted in other countries, or even in other States, we find that this abnormal growth is only the natural result of the energy of our sheep men and the unsurpassed merits of our State. The prejudices which at one time existed are fast passing away. Two of our staunch cattlemen told us, a few days ago, that they intended to enter into the sheep business, and a cattleman is about the last mortal to entertain such a project.

## How Texas Ranks in the Union.

From late statistics we condense the following authentic table, showing the relative standing of Texas in its chief products, as compared with the other States of the Union. Those States which outrank Texas by standing number one, are placed on a corresponding line in the table opposite:

| TEXAS.               | OTHER STATES. |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Oxen and cattle..... | 1             |
| Horses.....          | 2             |
| Mules.....           | 2             |
| Sheep.....           | 2             |
| Cotton.....          | 2             |
| Corn.....            | 2             |
| Railways.....        | 10            |

In miles of railway Texas equals Indiana, and exceeds Missouri, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, and most of the Southern States.

When we take into consideration that Texas was admitted to the Union in 1845—that she was the frontier of the Mexican war from April, 1846, until July 4, 1848—that she joined the secession in 1860, and was not re-admitted until 1869, we find that her period of peaceful development has been very brief, as compared with the other States of the Union.

Statistics indicate the rapid approach of a time when Texas shall take the lead in point of population, productions and wealth, and be crowned the Great Empire State of America. No other portion of the Continent unites such unlimited advantages of soil and climate. The lands are cheap, and the unoccupied domains extensive enough to accommodate the entire immigration of the East for the next quarter of a century. The climate of Texas is salu-

gious and healthful. Within her boundaries almost every product known to the use of man can be grown. Her mineral resources are boundless in extent and wonderful in richness. Texas is a land blessed with many of Nature's choicest gifts, and a climate not excelled by the far-famed vineyards of Los Angeles, or the bright skies of sunny Italy.—*Friendly Visitor.*

## Canned Goods.

It appears that the limit to the business of canned goods will only be reached when every a field of an edible nature shall have passed the ordeal of the canner's kettle. When hermetically sealed apples were first placed upon the market, they were regarded by many as a foolish enterprise, and but few believed any degree of success would attend it. They are not regarded as a success and an important branch of the trade, notwithstanding the large quantities of dried and green fruit which may be obtained at all seasons of the year, which enter into competition with the packed article. Canned squash has become very popular. The canning of pig's feet was brought about by a supposed unfortunate speculation, which was, however, made fortunate by the metamorphosis produced in the packing house. A well known firm of Cincinnati, who dealt largely in pickled pigs' feet, having one fall contracted extensively for this article, and finding a loss was imminent, owing to slow demands and exceedingly mild weather, conceived the idea of canning them, and thus saving their stock. Having acted upon the idea, they sent out samples to various consumers, without, however, any great hopes of success. The result proved different from the expectations. An active demand immediately sprung up, and now this delicious article is one of the chief favorites among canned goods novelties. Baked beans were looked upon as a good joke until their excellence was tested by a critical trial. The various canned soups were scouted impossibilities. A smile of incredulity was invariably observed on the countenance of each individual when it was mentioned that canned plum pudding was a successful fact. Although it was conceded poultry and game could readily be canned, yet but few dreamed of the various conditions in which they could be produced—roast fowl, baked fowl, curried fowl, potted fowl, canned whole, halved, boned, divided into the usual carved pieces, or hashed; and games of various kinds put up in numberless forms, have all been produced, having every delicacy of flavor and taste which the most experienced and efficient cooks could give them. Canned clams were soon followed by canned clam chowder, the various fish by pickled crabs and deviled crabs. Eggs having proved a success, we may next look for omelette, and, fried and poached eggs. The latest novelties, however, are canned frogs and fried sweet potatoes. The latter, it is said, have been produced in a very satisfactory manner, and if this be so we may soon hope to see baked sweet potatoes catalogued as one of the canned goods business.

## Advice to Telemachus.

You want to know, do you, my son, why it is that, with all your management, you can't live on your salary and are always in debt at the end of the year? Well, I'll tell you, Telemachus, why it is, and it won't cost you a dollar for the information. It's because you're trying to have a \$1200 time on a \$900 salary, and it can't be did. Older men than you have tried it and failed right along. A \$600 boarding-house, and a \$300 livery stable just exactly cuts the last coupon off your salary, and then how the man who makes your clothes expects to get anything out of you is more than you can tell him. Yours is a very simple case, my dear, and you can apply the remedies yourself and perform the necessary operation without the presence of a consulting surgeon. "Will it hurt?" My poor boy, you can bet your last bottom dollar that it will hurt. It will make you squirm a thousand times a day until you get out of debt, and then you will feel as though you were in Paradise. Begin treatment at once; the longer you wait the worse your case will be and the more you'll dread it.—*Burlington Hawkeye.*

THE reason that a baggage man recently hurled himself from the fourth-story window was that he was insane and thought he was a trunk.—*Boston Post.*

## THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC.

Some of Its Advantages Over the Other Transcontinental Railways.  
St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The advantages over the Southern Pacific over the Union Pacific consist of easier grades and a milder climate. For Northern points, the latter has some advantage in distance, but even in reference to them, the Southern road will be preferable in winter, on account of its freedom from snow blockades and the absence of the wearisome and not very reliable snow-sheds. Whatever business may grow up between the Southern States and Pacific coast will of course make use of the Southern route. One of the most important features of the traffic will consist of the transportation of California grain to New Orleans for shipment to Europe. It is not improbable that the bulk of the export of grain from the Pacific coast will be through the port of New Orleans. Mr. R. S. Hayes, vice-president of the Missouri Pacific, has expressed himself to the effect that there "is enough difference between the rates per ton from San Francisco and New Orleans to England on wheat, when added to the interest on money and the insurance, to pay us for bringing wheat from Southern California to the Gulf of Mexico for shipment." If this is a fact, the grain will certainly go that way. The cities of San Diego and Los Angeles and the entire regions tributary to them will have direct communication with the East, and be no longer dependent on San Francisco. If St. Louis does not succeed in selling goods in Southern California as well as improving the new facilities in New Mexico and Arizona, it will be its own fault.

The mining regions in the two Territories named will find a ready outlet to the markets of the world, and much of their business will naturally come to this city. New Orleans, perhaps, will relatively reap the greatest advantages from the new system. The grain traffic itself will increase its importance as a shipping point, and the new lines of steamers which will be run will bring back immigrants to be distributed throughout Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and the Territories. The South-western system of roads, under the control of the Missouri-Pacific, with its branches and feeders, amounts to nearly 6000 miles. Its connection with the Southern Pacific places it far in the lead of any other organization, or set of organizations, in the Southwest. It is a tremendous combination, and well calculated to excite the fears of the monopoly-haters. Fortunately the prosperity of the combination, and the prosperity of the regions it extends over, are inseparable. The system cannot fail to become the main factor in the development of vast domains. The possibilities of the Southern Californian and Mexican developments, added to those of New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana, are all to be considered in estimating the trade currents which will run through these veins of rails.

## How Easy It is to Die.

"If I had strength to hold a pen, I would write how easy and delightful it is to die," were the last words of the celebrated surgeon, Wm. Hunter; and Louis XIV. is recorded as saying, with his last breath, "I thought dying had been more difficult."

That the painlessness of death is owing to some benumbing influence acting on the sensory nerves may be inferred from the fact that no untoward external surroundings trouble the dying.

On the day that Lord Collingwood breathed his last the Mediterranean was tumultuous; those elements which had been the scene of his past glories rose and fell in swelling undulations and seemed as if rocking him to sleep. Capt. Thomas ventured to ask if he was disturbed by the tossing of the ship. "No, Thomas," he answered, "I am now in a state that nothing can disturb me more—I am dying, and I am sure it must be consolatory to you and all that love me to see how comfortably I am coming to my end." In the *Quarterly Review* there is related an instance of a criminal who escaped death from hanging by the breaking of the rope. Henry IV. of France sent his physician to examine him, who reported that after a moment's suffering the man saw an appearance like fire, across which appeared a most beautiful avenue of trees. When a pardon was mentioned the prisoner coolly replied that it was hardly worth asking for. Those who have been near death from

drowning, and afterward restored to consciousness, assert that the dying suffer but little pain.

Capt. Marryatt states that his sensations at one time when nearly drowned were rather pleasant than otherwise. "The first struggle for life once over, the water closing around me assumed the appearance of waving green fields. . . . It is not a feeling of pain, but seems like sinking down, overpowered by sleep, in the long, soft grass of the cool meadow." Now, this is precisely the condition presented in death from disease. Insensibility comes on, the mind loses consciousness of external objects, and death rapidly and placidly ensues from asphyxia.

## How to Select a Husband.

It has been profoundly remarked that the true way of telling a toadstool from a mushroom is to eat it. If you die, it was a toadstool; if you live, it was a mushroom. A similar method is employed in the selection of husbands. Marry him; if he kills you, he was a bad husband; if he makes you happy, he is a good one. There is really no other criterion. Some young men that seem unexceptionable, indeed very desirable when they are single, are perfectly horrid as soon as they are married. All the latent brute there is in the heart comes out as soon as a sensitive and delicate being seeks her happiness in his companionship. The honeymoon lasts a very short time, the receptions and rounds of parties are soon over, and then the two sit down to make home happy. If she has married a society man, he will soon begin to get bored; he will yawn and go to sleep on the sofa. Then he will take his hat and go down to the club and see the boys, and perhaps not come home until morning. If she has married a man engrossed in business, he will be fagged out when he comes home. He may be a sickly man that she must nurse, a morose man that she must seek to cheer, a drunken man that she must sit up for, a violent man that she fears, a fool whom she soon learns to despise, a vulgar man for whom she must apologize—in short, there are thousands of ways of being bad husbands, and very few ways of being good ones. And the worst of it is that the poor, silly women are apt to admire in single men the very traits that make bad husbands, and look with contempt or ridicule upon those quiet virtues which make home happy. Men with very little personal beauty or style often make the wife happy, and often quite the reverse. The number of ways of being a bad husband is almost as great as the number of ways of being ugly. No one can tell from the demeanor of a single man what sort of a husband he will be. However, she must marry somebody.

## How to Shake Hands.

There are only two or three people now living who can successfully shake hands. There is a good deal of hand shaking done throughout the country, especially at this season of the year, but only a small per cent. of the shakers and shakees know how to do it so as to get the entire amount of exhilaration out of it. Some grab the hand of an adversary in a quick, nervous manner that scares the victim nearly to death, while others slide the cold and clammy paw at you so that you feel the same as when you drop a cold raw oyster with vinegar on it down your back. If you are shaking hands with a lady incline your head forward with soft and graceful yet half-timid movement, like a boy climbing a barbed-wire fence with a fifty pound water-melon. Look gently in her eyes with a kind of pleading smile, beam on her features a bright and winsome beam, say something that you have heard some one else say on similar occasions, and, in the meantime, shake her hand in a subdued yet vigorous way, not as though you were trying to make a mash by pulverizing her fingers nor yet in too conservative a manner, allowing her hand to fall with a sickening thud when you let go. Care should be taken also not to hang on to the hand more than half an hour in public, as bystanders might make remarks. This is now considered quite outre and mandamus.—*Nye's Boomerang.*

No odds how poor the farmer's roots,  
No odds how damaged are his fruits—  
Though rust has soiled his cherished wheat  
And though he can't make both ends meet,  
His turnip crop cannot be best!

"Know thyself" may be an excellent sort of proverb, but its forcing a pretty tough acquaintance on some folks.—*Boston Post.*

## WORK FOR THE MISSIONARY.

People Who Bang Their Hair and Eat Their Grandmothers.  
Balmore Sun.

Paris is full—as full as any thanksgiving turkey ever was. Its 4,000 hotels and innumerable apartments and lodging houses are overflowing. I have never seen so many people here when there was no extraordinary attraction.

You have read Darwin's "Voyage of a Naturalist," and remember his description of the "Terra del Fnegians." He says: "I certainly have never seen creatures more abject, and more miserable—completely nude, the body running with the falling rain, the figure short, the visage hideous, the skin dirty and greasy; the hair disheveled, the voice discordant, the gestures violent. It is hardly possible to believe them to be human creatures, inhabitants of the same world with ourselves."

In the Jardin d'Acclimation here there is a group of these creatures recently imported, and the description of them written by Darwin fifty years ago is as correct as if written yesterday.

In a large enclosure taken from some of the other wild animals assembled four men, four women and two or three children of these barbarians, and a more curious sight I have never seen, or a more interesting one. A crowd of thousands of the demi-monde and the curious of all classes press their noses continually against the wire screen which surrounds their inclosure. Sitting on their haunches, or lying at half length about a log fire, are these creatures clad in a simple sheepskin, tied by a string about the neck, and a waist cloth. The latter is put on in deference to the prejudices of the visiting Europeans, and not particularly for the Parisians, who rather fancy the nude. Their hair, full of vermin, is a tangled mass, which they are continually scratching. It is entirely innocent of scissors, excepting at the forehead, where it is hacked off or banged in the most fashionable and idiotic style, to keep it out of the eyes.

They in features resemble the Circassian rather than the Indian—forehead broad and low, nose broad at the base, mouth large. Briefly their food at home is chiefly fish, eaten alive; here it is beef or mutton, hacked off with a huge knife and thrown into the ashes. When cooked to their taste it is pulled out with a stick and eaten, dirt and all. Of their chief luxury—their grandmothers—they are unfortunately deprived. It is their custom to eat the old and feeble and the wounded. When asked why they do not eat their dogs instead, they give you to understand that the dog can catch the otter and an old woman can't catch anything.

Of the family or family relations, chiefs or patriarchs, they have no notion, no religion, no faith—not even feticism, the refuge of the most degraded Africans. He has no knowledge of his age, of any distinctive names, or of time; he is a Fnegian, as a horse is a horse, a pig is a pig, and simply a member of a herd; no knowledge of property, and no regard for it beyond a miserable canoe, a bow and arrows, and the sealskin which he throws over his shoulders. He possesses nothing. He has no habitation, but at night makes a rude nest like a monkey or a dog, and sleeps huddled together with his neighbors. His life is a vagabondish nomadic, and he seeks something to appease his hunger continually, like any wild animal.

Mr. Darwin says of their wigwags: "They resemble in form and size a pile of rubbish, the work of an hour." Their language, Captain Cook said, sounds very much like a man "gargling his throat." Their cruelty is notorious, and they think nothing of dashing out a child's brains on the rocks if he displeases them. If I had never seen Paris or any of its sights I should have been able to see nothing else here. I consider it the greatest curiosity I have ever seen, and an interesting study. Here at a glance can be seen the great stride our civilization has made. Here in contrast is that of the very earliest and very latest times face to face. The absence of all clothing, and that of the demi-monde clothed in all the superfluities of the mode, is in striking contrast. You will remember the rather funny account of the Fugian Captain Fitzroy carried over to London, and after keeping him there two or three years, returned with him to Terra del Fuego clad in the London fashion, left him with his people, and returning after a short absence found him stripped of every rag of clothing, and, having returned to his native habits, had no wish to go back to civilization.